

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

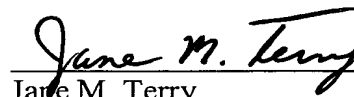
Claims 18-33 are pending in the present application. Original Claims 1-17 have been canceled, and new Claims 18-33 have been added. Original Claims 1-17 are based on Claims 1-17 of PCT Application No. PCT/JP02/13792, as originally filed. Support for new Claims 18-33 can be found throughout the specification and in the original claims. Particular support for new Claims 18-33 can be found in original Claims 2-17, respectively. New Claims 18-33 were added to remove multiple dependencies, and to conform the claim language to U.S. practice. No new matter is believed to have been introduced by the new claims.

The specification was amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter is believed to have been introduced by the amendments.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and request early notice of such action.

Respectfully submitted,

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